



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

***Raised Bill No. 186***

LCO No. 1072

\*01072\_\_\_\_\_PH\_\*

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSING, INVESTIGATION AND  
DISCIPLINARY PROCESSES FOR PHYSICIANS AND NURSES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 20-8a of the  
2 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) There shall be within the Department of Public Health a  
5 Connecticut Medical Examining Board. [Said] On and after October 1,  
6 2012, said board shall consist of [fifteen] twenty-one members,  
7 fourteen of whom are physicians and seven of whom are public  
8 members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor, subject to the  
9 provisions of section 4-9a, in the manner prescribed for department  
10 heads in section 4-7, as follows: [Five] Three physicians [practicing in  
11 the state; one physician who shall be a full-time member of the faculty  
12 of The University of Connecticut School of Medicine; one physician  
13 who shall be a full-time chief of staff in a general-care hospital in the  
14 state;] of any specialty; three physicians who shall be specialists in  
15 internal medicine; one physician who shall be a psychiatrist; one  
16 physician who shall be a surgeon; one physician who shall be an

17 obstetrician-gynecologist; one physician who shall be a pediatrician;  
18 one physician who shall be an emergency medical physician; one  
19 physician who shall be a supervising physician for one or more  
20 physician assistants; one physician who shall be a graduate of a  
21 medical education program accredited by the American Osteopathic  
22 Association; one physician assistant licensed pursuant to section  
23 20-12b; [and practicing in this state; and five] and seven public  
24 members. No professional member of said board shall be an elected or  
25 appointed officer of a professional society or association relating to  
26 such member's profession at the time of appointment to the board or  
27 have been such an officer during the year immediately preceding  
28 appointment or serve for more than two consecutive terms.  
29 Professional members shall be practitioners in good professional  
30 standing and residents of this state.

31 (b) All vacancies shall be filled by the Governor in the manner  
32 prescribed for department heads in section 4-7. Successors and  
33 appointments to fill a vacancy shall fulfill the same qualifications as  
34 the member succeeded or replaced. In addition to the requirements in  
35 sections 4-9a and 19a-8, no person whose spouse, parent, brother,  
36 sister, child or spouse of a child is a physician, as defined in section  
37 20-13a, or a physician assistant, as defined in section 20-12a, shall be  
38 appointed as a public member.

39 (c) The Commissioner of Public Health shall establish a list of  
40 [twenty-four] thirty-six persons who may serve as members of medical  
41 hearing panels established pursuant to subsection (g) of this section.  
42 Persons appointed to the list shall serve as members of the medical  
43 hearing panels and provide the same services as members of the  
44 Connecticut Medical Examining Board. Members from the list serving  
45 on such panels shall not be voting members of the Connecticut  
46 Medical Examining Board. The list shall consist of [twenty-four] thirty-  
47 six members appointed by the commissioner, [at least eight] twenty-  
48 four of whom shall be physicians, as defined in section 20-13a, with at  
49 least two physicians who shall be specialists in internal medicine; one

50 physician who shall be a psychiatrist; one physician who shall be a  
 51 psychiatrist specializing in addiction medicine; one physician who  
 52 shall be an obstetrician-gynecologist; one physician who shall be a  
 53 pediatrician; one physician who shall be an emergency medicine  
 54 physician; one physician who shall be a surgeon; one physician who  
 55 shall be an anesthesiologist; and one [of such physicians being]  
 56 physician who shall be a graduate of a medical education program  
 57 accredited by the American Osteopathic Association, [at least one of  
 58 whom] one who shall be a physician assistant licensed pursuant to  
 59 section 20-12b, and [nine of whom] twelve who shall be members of  
 60 the public. No professional member of the list shall be an elected or  
 61 appointed officer of a professional society or association relating to  
 62 such member's profession at the time of appointment to the list or have  
 63 been such an officer during the year immediately preceding such  
 64 appointment to the list. A licensed professional appointed to the list  
 65 shall be a practitioner in good professional standing and a resident of  
 66 this state. All vacancies shall be filled by the commissioner. Successors  
 67 and professional members appointed to fill a vacancy on the list shall  
 68 possess the same qualifications as those required of the member  
 69 succeeded or replaced. No person whose spouse, parent, brother,  
 70 sister, child or spouse of a child is a physician, as defined in section  
 71 20-13a, or a physician assistant, as defined in section 20-12a, shall be  
 72 appointed to the list as a member of the public. Each person appointed  
 73 to the list shall serve without compensation at the pleasure of the  
 74 commissioner. Each medical hearing panel shall consist of three  
 75 members, one of whom shall be a member of the Connecticut Medical  
 76 Examining Board, one of whom shall be a physician or physician  
 77 assistant, as appropriate, and one of whom shall be a public member.  
 78 The physician and public member may be a member of the board or a  
 79 member from the list established pursuant to this subsection.

80       Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 20-10b of the general statutes is  
 81 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
 82 *passage*):

83 (b) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (d), (e) and (f) of  
 84 this section, for registration periods beginning on and after October 1,  
 85 [2007] 2012, a licensee applying for license renewal shall earn a  
 86 minimum of [fifty] sixty contact hours of continuing medical education  
 87 within the preceding twenty-four-month period. Such continuing  
 88 medical education shall (1) be in an area of the physician's practice; (2)  
 89 reflect the professional needs of the licensee in order to meet the health  
 90 care needs of the public; and (3) include at least one contact hour of  
 91 training or education in each of the following topics: (A) Infectious  
 92 diseases, including, but not limited to, acquired immune deficiency  
 93 syndrome and human immunodeficiency virus, (B) risk management,  
 94 (C) sexual assault, (D) domestic violence, and (E) for registration  
 95 periods beginning on and after October 1, 2010, cultural competency.  
 96 For purposes of this section, qualifying continuing medical education  
 97 activities include, but are not limited to, courses offered or approved  
 98 by the American Medical Association, American Osteopathic Medical  
 99 Association, Connecticut Hospital Association, Connecticut State  
 100 Medical Society, county medical societies or equivalent organizations  
 101 in another jurisdiction, educational offerings sponsored by a hospital  
 102 or other health care institution or courses offered by a regionally  
 103 accredited academic institution or a state or local health department.  
 104 The commissioner may grant a waiver for not more than ten contact  
 105 hours of continuing medical education for a physician who: (1)  
 106 Engages in activities related to the physician's service as a member of  
 107 the Connecticut Medical Examining Board, established pursuant to  
 108 section 20-8a, as amended by this act; (2) engages in activities related  
 109 to the physician's service as a member of a medical hearing panel,  
 110 pursuant to section 20-8a, as amended by this act; or (3) assists the  
 111 department with its duties to boards and commissions as described in  
 112 section 19a-14.

113 Sec. 3. Subsection (g) of section 19a-88 of the general statutes is  
 114 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
 115 *October 1, 2012*):

116 (g) [On or before July 1, 2008, the] The Department of Public Health  
 117 shall [establish and implement] administer a secure on-line license  
 118 renewal system for persons holding a license to practice medicine or  
 119 surgery under chapter 370, dentistry under chapter 379 or nursing  
 120 under chapter 378. The department shall [allow] require any such  
 121 person [who renews] to renew his or her license using the on-line  
 122 license renewal system and to pay his or her professional service fees  
 123 on-line by means of a credit card or electronic transfer of funds from a  
 124 bank or credit union account and may charge such person a service fee  
 125 not to exceed five dollars for any such on-line payment made by credit  
 126 card or electronic funds transfer. [On or before January 1, 2009, the  
 127 department shall submit, in accordance with section 11-4a, a report on  
 128 the feasibility and implications of the implementation of a biennial  
 129 license renewal system for persons holding a license to practice  
 130 nursing under chapter 378 to the joint standing committee of the  
 131 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
 132 health.]

133 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 20-88 of the general statutes is  
 134 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
 135 *passage*):

136 (a) The Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing shall  
 137 consist of twelve members who are residents of the state to be  
 138 appointed by the Governor subject to the provisions of section 4-9a.  
 139 The Governor shall appoint [two members] one member who shall be  
 140 [graduates] a graduate of an approved school for licensed practical  
 141 nursing; [five] six members who shall be registered nurses, [three] two  
 142 of whom may practice in any area, one of whom shall practice in the  
 143 area of acute care, one of whom shall practice in the area of long-term  
 144 care, one of whom shall, at the time of appointment, be connected with  
 145 an institution affording opportunities for the education of registered  
 146 nurses, [and at least two of whom shall hold master's degrees in  
 147 nursing from a recognized college or university] and one of whom  
 148 shall, [be] at the time of appointment, be an instructor in an approved

149 school for licensed practical nurses; one member who shall be an  
 150 advanced practice registered nurse; and four members who shall be  
 151 public members, at least one of whom shall be a health care  
 152 professional, other than a nurse, who has training and experience in  
 153 mental health and addiction services. Members of said board shall be  
 154 residents of this state and professional members shall maintain good  
 155 professional standing. No member of said board shall be an elected or  
 156 appointed officer of any professional association of nurses or have  
 157 been such an officer during the year immediately preceding his  
 158 appointment. No member shall serve more than two full consecutive  
 159 terms which commence after July 1, 1980. Any vacancy shall be filled  
 160 by the Governor for the unexpired portion of the term.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	20-8a(a) to (c)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	20-10b(b)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	19a-88(g)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	20-88(a)

***Statement of Purpose:***

To expand the membership of the Connecticut Medical Examining Board; increase the number of continuing medical education credits for physicians; require renewal of physician, nurse and dentist licenses using the Department of Public Health's on-line license renewal system; and change the membership of the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*